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NOVEL USE

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the use of thioxanthine derivatives as inhibitors of the enzyme myeloperoxidase (MPO). Certain novel thioxanthine derivatives are also disclosed together with processes for their preparation, compositions containing them and their use in therapy.

Background of the Invention

Myeloperoxidase (MPO) is a heme-containing enzyme found predominantly in polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNs). MPO is one member of a diverse protein family of mammalian peroxidases that also includes eosinophil peroxidase, thyroid peroxidase, salivary peroxidase, lactoperoxidase, prostaglandin H synthase, and others. The mature enzyme is a dimer of identical halves. Each half molecule contains a covalently bound heme that exhibits unusual spectral properties responsible for the characteristic green colour of MPO. Cleavage of the disulphide bridge linking the two halves of MPO yields the hemi-enzyme that exhibits spectral and catalytic properties indistinguishable from those of the intact enzyme. The enzyme uses hydrogen peroxide to oxidize chloride to hypochlorous acid. Other halides and pseudohalides (like thiocyanate) are also physiological substrates to MPO.

PMNs are of particular importance for combating infections. These cells contain MPO, with well documented microbicidal action. PMNs act non-specifically by phagocytosis to engulf microorganisms, incorporate them into vacuoles, termed phagosomes, which fuse with granules containing myeloperoxidase to form phagolysosomes. In phagolysosomes the enzymatic activity of the myeloperoxidase leads to the formation of hypochlorous acid, a potent bactericidal compound. Hypochlorous acid is oxidizing in itself, and reacts most avidly with thiols and thioethers, but also converts amines into chloramines, and

chlorinates aromatic amino acids. Macrophages are large phagocytic cells which, like PMNs, are capable of phagocytosing microorganisms. Macrophages can generate hydrogen peroxide and upon activation also produce myeloperoxidase. MPO and hydrogen peroxide can also be released to the outside of the cells where the reaction with chloride can induce damage to adjacent tissue.

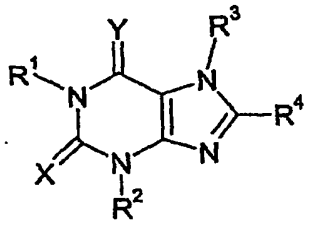
Linkage of myeloperoxidase activity to disease has been implicated in neuroinflammatory diseases including Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and stroke as well as other inflammatory diseases or conditions like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, atherosclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, renal glomerular damage, and rheumatoid arthritis. Lung cancer has also been suggested to be associated with high MPO levels.

WO 01/85146 discloses various compounds that are MPO inhibitors and are thereby useful in the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The present invention relates to a group of thioxanthine derivatives that surprisingly display useful properties as inhibitors of the enzyme MPO.

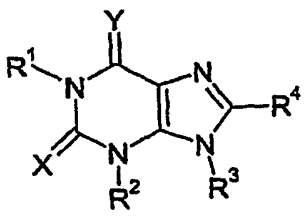
Disclosure of the invention

According to the present invention, there is provided the use of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib)



(Ia)

or



(Ib)

wherein:

at least one of X and Y represents S, and the other represents O or S;

R^1 represents hydrogen or C1 to C6 alkyl;

R^2 represents hydrogen or C1 to C6 alkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C3 to C7 cycloalkyl, C1 to C4 alkoxy, or an aromatic ring selected from phenyl, furyl or thienyl; said aromatic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to C4 alkyl or C1 to C4 alkoxy;

R^3 and R^4 independently represent hydrogen or C1 to C6 alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or conditions in which inhibition of the enzyme MPO is beneficial.

It will be appreciated that when R^3 in formulae (Ia) and (Ib) represents hydrogen, the two alternative representations (Ia) and (Ib) are tautomeric forms of the same compound. All such tautomers and mixtures of tautomers are included within the scope of the present invention.

A more particular aspect of the invention provides the use of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of neuroinflammatory disorders.

According to the invention, there is also provided a method of treating, or reducing the risk of, diseases or conditions in which inhibition of the enzyme MPO is beneficial which

comprises administering to a person suffering from or at risk of, said disease or condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof.

More particularly, there is also provided a method of treating, or reducing the risk of, neuroinflammatory disorders in a person suffering from or at risk of, said disease or condition, wherein the method comprises administering to the person a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof.

In another aspect the invention provides a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier, for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or conditions in which inhibition of the enzyme MPO is beneficial.

In another more particular aspect the invention provides a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier, for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of neuroinflammatory disorders.

In one embodiment, the invention relates to compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib) wherein X represents S and Y represents O.

In another embodiment, R^3 in formula (Ia) or (Ib) represents hydrogen.

In another embodiment, R^2 in formula (Ia) or (Ib) represents C1 to C6 alkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C3 to C7 cycloalkyl.

When X represents S and Y represents O, a further embodiment comprises compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib) wherein R^1 represents hydrogen.

When X represents S and Y represents O, a yet further embodiment comprises compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib) wherein R^4 represents hydrogen.

When X represents O and Y represents S, a further embodiment comprises compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib) wherein R^1 represents C1 to C6 alkyl.

When X represents O and Y represents S, a yet further embodiment comprises compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib) wherein R^4 represents C1 to C6 alkyl.

Unless otherwise indicated, the term "C1 to C6 alkyl" referred to herein denotes a straight or branched chain alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms. Examples of such groups include methyl, ethyl, 1-propyl, n-butyl, iso-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl and hexyl.

The term "C1 to C4 alkyl" is to be interpreted analogously.

Unless otherwise indicated, the term "C3 to C7 cycloalkyl" referred to herein denotes a cyclic alkyl group having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms. Examples of such groups include cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl.

Unless otherwise indicated, the term "C1 to C4 alkoxy" referred to herein denotes a straight or branched chain alkoxy group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Examples of such groups include methoxy, ethoxy, 1-propoxy, 2-propoxy and tert-butoxy.

Unless otherwise indicated, the term "halogen" referred to herein denotes fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo.

Certain compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib) are novel. Therefore a further aspect of the invention provides the following novel compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib):

1,3-diisobutyl-8-methyl-6-thioxanthine;

1,3-dibutyl-8-methyl-6-thioxanthine;

3-isobutyl-1,8-dimethyl-6-thioxanthine;

3-(3-methylbutyl)-6-thioxanthine;

3-isobutyl-8-methyl-6-thioxanthine;

3-isobutyl-2-thioxanthine;

3-isobutyl-2,6-dithioxanthine;

3-isobutyl-8-methyl-2-thioxanthine;

3-isobutyl-7-methyl-2-thioxanthine;

3-cyclohexylmethyl-2-thioxanthine;

3-(3-methoxypropyl)-2-thioxanthine;

3-cyclopropylmethyl-2-thioxanthine;

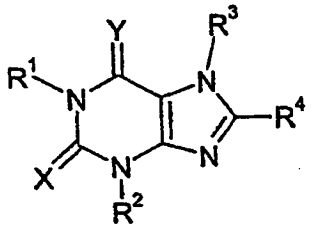
3-isobutyl-3-methyl-2-thioxanthine;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, enantiomers or racemates thereof.

A further aspect of the invention is the use of certain novel compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib) as a medicament.

According to the invention, we further provide a process for the preparation of certain novel compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof which comprises:

(a) reaction of a compound of formula (IIa) or (IIb)



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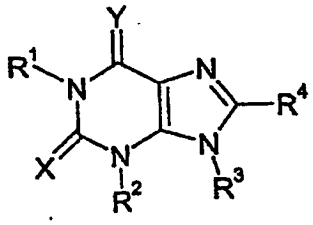


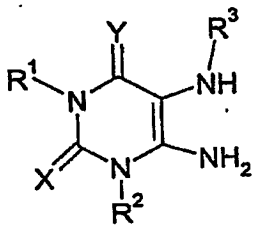
(IIa) (IIb)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as defined in formula (Ia) or (Ib), X represents O or S and Y represents O;

with a sulphurising compound such as Lawesson's reagent or phosphorus pentasulphide;

to give a corresponding compound wherein Y represents S; or

(b) reaction of a diamine of formula (IIIa) or (IIIb)



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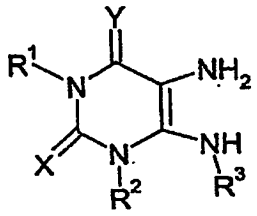


(IIIa) (IIIb)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, X and Y are as defined in formula (Ia) or (Ib);

with formic acid or with a trialkylorthoester;

and where necessary converting the resultant compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), or another salt thereof, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting the resultant compound

of formula (Ia) or (Ib) into a further compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib); and where desired converting the resultant compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) into an optical isomer thereof.

In process (a), a compound of formula (IIa) or (IIb) and a sulfurising agent such as Lawesson's reagent, or phosphorus pentasulfide are dissolved or suspended in a suitable dry organic solvent such as toluene or dioxane and then heated to between 30 °C and the reflux temperature of the solvent until reaction is complete, typically for between one to 30 hours. The reaction mixture is then cooled and filtered to remove insoluble solids. The solvent is removed under reduced pressure and the crude product is purified by column chromatography or by recrystallization.

In process (b), a diamine of formula (IIIa) or (IIIb) is treated at a suitable temperature with an excess of an appropriate ortho ester, optionally in the presence of a suitable solvent such as an alcohol, until reaction is complete. The temperature is typically up to the reflux temperature of the reaction mixture, and reaction times are generally from 30 minutes to overnight. In one embodiment, the orthoester is triethylorthoformate with ethanol as an optional solvent.

Alternatively in process (b), a diamine of formula (IIIa) or (IIIb) is treated with 98% formic acid at a suitable temperature up to the reflux temperature of the reaction mixture. The process is continued for a suitable period of time, typically for between 0.5 to 5 hours.

Other methods for the conversion of a diamine of formula (IIIa) or (IIIb) into a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) are described in the literature and will be readily known to the person skilled in the art.

The present invention includes compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib) in the form of salts, in particular acid addition salts. Suitable salts include those formed with both organic and inorganic acids. Such acid addition salts will normally be pharmaceutically acceptable although salts of non-pharmaceutically acceptable acids may be of utility in the preparation

and purification of the compound in question. Thus, preferred salts include those formed from hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulphuric, phosphoric, citric, tartaric, lactic, pyruvic, acetic, succinic, fumaric, maleic, methanesulphonic and benzenesulphonic acids.

Salts of compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib) may be formed by reacting the free base, or a salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof, with one or more equivalents of the appropriate acid. The reaction may be carried out in a solvent or medium in which the salt is insoluble or in a solvent in which the salt is soluble, for example, water, dioxan, ethanol, tetrahydrofuran or diethyl ether, or a mixture of solvents, which may be removed *in vacuo* or by freeze drying. The reaction may also be a metathetical process or it may be carried out on an ion exchange resin.

Compounds of formulae (IIa) or (IIb) and compounds of formula (IIIa) or (IIIb) are either known in the literature or may be prepared using known methods that will be readily apparent to the man skilled in the art.

The compounds of the invention and intermediates thereto may be isolated from their reaction mixtures and, if necessary further purified, by using standard techniques.

The compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib) may exist in enantiomeric forms. Therefore, all enantiomers, diastereomers, racemates and mixtures thereof are included within the scope of the invention. The various optical isomers may be isolated by separation of a racemic mixture of the compounds using conventional techniques, for example, fractional crystallisation, or HPLC. Alternatively, the various optical isomers may be prepared directly using optically active starting materials.

Intermediate compounds may also exist in enantiomeric forms and may be used as purified enantiomers, diastereomers, racemates or mixtures.

The compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib), and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, enantiomers and racemates, are useful because they possess pharmacological activity as inhibitors of the enzyme MPO.

The compounds of formulae (Ia) and (Ib) and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, enantiomers and racemates are indicated for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or conditions in which modulation of the activity of the enzyme myeloperoxidase (MPO) is desirable. In particular, linkage of MPO activity to disease has been implicated in neuroinflammatory diseases. Therefore the compounds of the present invention are particularly indicated for use in the treatment of neuroinflammatory conditions or disorders in mammals including man. Such conditions or disorders will be readily apparent to the man skilled in the art.

Conditions or disorders that may be specifically mentioned include multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and stroke, as well as other inflammatory diseases or conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, acute respiratory distress syndrome, sinusitis, rhinitis, psoriasis, dermatitis, uveitis, gingivitis, atherosclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, renal glomerular damage, liver fibrosis, sepsis, proctitis, rheumatoid arthritis, and inflammation associated with reperfusion injury, spinal cord injury and tissue damage/scarring/adhesion/rejection. Lung cancer has also been suggested to be associated with high MPO levels.

Prophylaxis is expected to be particularly relevant to the treatment of persons who have suffered a previous episode of, or are otherwise considered to be at increased risk of, the disease or condition in question. Persons at risk of developing a particular disease or condition generally include those having a family history of the disease or condition, or those who have been identified by genetic testing or screening to be particularly susceptible to developing the disease or condition.

For the above mentioned therapeutic indications, the dosage administered will, of course, vary with the compound employed, the mode of administration and the treatment desired. However, in general, satisfactory results are obtained when the compounds are administered at a dosage of the solid form of between 1 mg and 2000 mg per day.

The compounds of formulae (Ia) or (Ib), and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof, may be used on their own, or in the form of appropriate pharmaceutical compositions in which the compound or derivative is in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier. Administration may be by, but is not limited to, enteral (including oral, sublingual or rectal), intranasal, inhalation, intravenous, topical or other parenteral routes. Conventional procedures for the selection and preparation of suitable pharmaceutical formulations are described in, for example, "Pharmaceuticals - The Science of Dosage Form Designs", M. E. Aulton, Churchill Livingstone, 1988. The pharmaceutical composition preferably comprises less than 80% and more preferably less than 50% of a compound of formulae (Ia) or (Ib), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof.

There is also provided a process for the preparation of such a pharmaceutical composition which comprises mixing the ingredients.

The invention is illustrated, but in no way limited, by the following examples:

^{1}H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded either on a 300 MHz Bruker DPX instrument or on a Varian Unity 400 MHz spectrometer at 25 °C. The following reference signals were used: the middle line of DMSO-d_6 δ 39.5 (^{13}C); DMSO-d_6 δ 2.50 (^{1}H). All mass spectra were recorded on a Waters LCMS (2790) instrument. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck TLC aluminium sheets silica gel 60 F_{254} pre-coated sheets (layer thickness 0.2 mm). Merck Silica gel 60 (0.063-0.200 mm) was used for column chromatography. HPLC analysis were performed on a Gynkotek P580 HPG, gradient pump with a Gynkotek UVD 170S UV-vis detector. Column; Waters symmetry C18, 5

μm, 3.9 x 150 mm. Preparative liquid chromatography was performed on a Gynkotek P580 HPG, gradient pump with a Gynkotek UVD 170S UV-vis detector. Column; Waters symmetry C18, 5 μm, 19x100 mm.

Starting materials were prepared according to the following references:

1. Merlos, M.; Gomez, L.; Vericat, M. L.; Bartroli, J.; Garcia-Rafanell, J.; Forn, J.; *Eur.J.Med.Chem.Chim.Ther.*; 25; 8; 1990; 653-658.
2. Kjellin, P. G.; Persson, C. G. A., EP 0 010 531.
3. Katritzky, A. R.; Drewniak, M., *Tet. Lett.* (1988), 29(15), 1755-1758.
4. Van der Goot, H.; Schepers, M. J. P.; Sterk, G. J.; Timmerman, H., *Eur. J. Med. Chem* (1992), 27 (5), 511-517.

Example 1

1,3-Diisobutyl-8-methyl-6-thioxanthine

1,3-Diisobutyl-8-methyl-xanthine[1] (0.20 g, 0.72 mmol) and Lawesson's reagent (1.5 g, 3.6 mmol) were suspended in toluene (8 mL) and then heated at 100 °C for 21 h. The reaction mixture was cooled and filtered to remove insoluble solids. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography using silica gel and eluting with ethyl acetate/heptane (1:1) giving the title compound (90 mg, 43 % yield).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 13.1 (s, 1H), 4.28 (d, 2H, *J*=7.2 Hz), 3.84 (d, 2H, *J*=7.5 Hz), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.28–2.35 (m, 1H), 2.17–2.25 (m, 1H), 0.85-0.88 (m, 12 H).
MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 295 (M+1).

Example 2

1,3-Dibutyl-8-methyl-6-thioxanthine

1,3-Dibutyl-8-methyl-xanthine[1] (0.20 g, 0.72 mmol) and Lawesson's reagent (0.87 g, 2.2 mmol) were suspended in toluene (8 mL) and heated at 120 °C for 30 h. The resulting brown mixture was cooled and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The brownish solid residue was suspended in 10% sodium hydroxide (25 mL) and stirred overnight. Then the pH of the solution was adjusted to pH 4 with 10% acetic acid. The precipitate was collected by filtration and washed with water. This crude product was purified by column chromatography using silica gel and elution with ethyl acetate/heptane (9:1) giving the title compound (0.15 g, 69% yield).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 13.1 (s, 1H), 4.40 (t, 2H, J=7.6 Hz), 3.99 (t, 2H, J=7.3 Hz), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.57–1.69 (m, 4H), 1.28–1.35 (m, 4H), 0.88–0.93 (m, 6H).
^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 173.5, 154.2, 148.9, 143.2, 118.9, 45.61, 43.13, 29.24, 28.37, 19.51, 19.31, 14.42, 13.60.
MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 295 (M+1).

Example 3

3-Isobutyl-1,8-dimethyl-6-thioxanthine

3-Isobutyl-1,8-dimethyl-xanthine[1] (0.150 g, 6.35 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and Lawesson's reagent (0.128 g, 3.17 mmol, 0.5 eq.) were dissolved in toluene 810 mL and the reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 3.5 h. The conversion was less than 10% according to HPLC. Lawesson's reagent (0.5 g) was added and the reaction mixture was heated to reflux overnight. The solvent was evaporated off and the remaining brown solid was purified by preparative HPLC to give the title compound (78 mg, 49%).

^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6): δ 13.16 (s, 1H), 3.92 (d, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.35 (m, 1H), 0.97 (d, 6H).

Example 4

3-(3-Methylbutyl)-6-thioxanthine

3-(3-Methylbutyl)-xanthine[2] (3 g, 0.013 mol) and phosphorus pentasulfide (5 g, 0.025 mol) in dioxane (250 mL) were refluxed for 3 h. Almost 150 mL dioxane was distilled off and the solution was cooled down. Water (100 ml) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. 2N Sodium hydroxide (75 mL) was added, the solution was filtered and neutralized with 5N hydrochloric acid. The crude crystals were filtered off and recrystallised from ethanol to yield the title compound (1.6 g, 51%).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6): δ 13.53 (s, 1H), 12.32 (s, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 3.85 (dd, 1H, ^2J=13.1 Hz, ^3J=7.1 Hz), 3.78 (dd, 1H, ^2J=13.1 Hz, ^3J=8.1 Hz), 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.36 (m, 1H), 1.14 (m, 1H), 0.87 (t, 3H, J=7.6), 0.82 (d, 3H, J=6.6).
^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 175.11, 149.19, 145.73, 143.62, 118.32, 48.11, 32.93, 26.40, 16.57, 11.05.

Example 5

3-Isobutyl-8-methyl-6-thioxanthine

3-Isobutyl-8-methyl-xanthine[2] (4.5 g, 0.02 mol) and phosphorus pentasulfide (8 g, 0.04 mol) in dioxane (400 mL) were refluxed for 5 h. Almost 200 mL dioxane was distilled off and the solution was cooled down. Water (250 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. 2N Sodium hydroxide (150 mL) was added, the solution was filtered and neutralized with 5N hydrochloric acid , and the solution was left overnight. The crude crystals were filtered off and washed with water, giving the required product

(4.3 g). A portion (2.3 g) was recrystallised from acetic acid to give pure product (1.5 g, 31% overall).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 13.13 (s, 1H), 12.16 (s, 1H), 3.77 (d, 2H, *J*=8.1 Hz), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.20 (m, 1H), 0.86 (d, 3H, *J*=7.1).
^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 173.19, 154.23, 149.14, 146.11, 118.56, 49.29, 26.63, 19.73, 14.54.

Example 6

3-Isobutyl-2-thioxanthine

a) 6-Amino-1-isobutyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one

Isobutylthiourea[3] (3.8 g, 29 mmol) and ethyl cyanoacetate (3.9 g, 34 mmol) were added to a solution of sodium ethoxide [made from sodium (0.72 g, 32 mmol) and absolute ethanol (30 mL)]. The resulting mixture was refluxed for 4 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. 10% Acetic acid (45 mL) was added to the viscous syrup. The resulting precipitate was collected by filtration and the solid was washed with water. Recrystallization from methanol/water gave the desired product (4.0 g, 70%).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 11.8 (s, 1H), 6.99 (s, 2H), 4.85 (m, 2H), 4.61 (broad s, 1H), 2.29 (m, 1H), 0.87 (d, 6H, *J*=6.6 Hz).
MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 200 (M+1).

b) 6-Amino-1-isobutyl-5-nitroso-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one

6-Amino-1-isobutyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (1.0 g, 5.0 mmol) was suspended in 10% acetic acid (20 mL). Sodium nitrite (0.38 g, 5.5 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture was heated at 75 °C for 1h. The reaction mixture became first pink and then purple. The purple mixture was cooled to room temperature. Then water (20 mL)

was added and the purple solid was collected by filtration and washed with water to give the title compound (1.1 g, 92% yield). This solid was used in the following step without further purification.

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-D_6) δ 13.1 (broad s, 1H), 12.8 (broad s, 1H), 9.1 (broad s, 1H), 4.80 (broad s, 1H), 3.78 (broad s, 1H), 2.21 (m, 1H), 0.88 (d, 6H, *J*=6.3 Hz).
MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 229 (M+1).

c) 5,6-Diamino-1-isobutyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one

6-Amino-1-isobutyl-5-nitroso-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (1.1 g, 4.5 mmol) was suspended in 32% aqueous ammonia (10 mL) and water (10 mL) was added. This red mixture was heated at 75 °C. Sodium dithionite was added in small portions. When 1.8 g (10 mmol) of dithionite had been added the colour of the solution had changed from red to pale yellow. At this point, all solid was dissolved. After heating for another 5 minutes a precipitate was formed in the solution. The reaction mixture was removed from the oil bath and stirred at ambient temperature for 45 minutes. The pH of the solution was adjusted to neutral pH with 10% acetic acid. The yellow precipitate was collected by filtration and washed with water and dried to yield the diamine (0.76 g, 77%). This product was used without further purification.

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 11.3 (broad s, 1H), 6.19 (s, 2 H), 4.94 (broad s, 1H), 3.70 (broad s, 1H), 3.43 (s, 2H), 2.27–2.35 (m, 1H), 0.88 (d, 6H, *J*=6.1 Hz).
MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 215 (M+1).

d) 3-Isobutyl-2-thioxanthine

5,6-Diamino-1-isobutyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (0.22 g, 1.0 mmol) was suspended in formic acid (1.5 mL) and this solution was heated at 100 °C for 1 h. Excess formic acid was evaporated off under reduced pressure. 10% Sodium hydroxide (1.5 mL) was added to the orange solid and the resulting solution was heated at 100 °C for 15 minutes. Water was added and the pH of the solution adjusted to pH 4 with dilute acetic

acid. The resulting slurry was stirred for 0.5 h at ambient temperature, then the precipitate was collected by filtration and washed with water. Yield: (0.21 g, 90 %).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 13.82 (s, 1H), 12.42 (s, 1H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 4.31 (d, 2H, *J*=7.6 Hz), 2.50 (m, 1H), 0.88 (d, 6H, *J*=6.6 Hz).
^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 173.81, 152.57, 149.79, 141.19, 110.68, 54.04, 26.11, 19.79.
MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 225 (M+1).

Example 7

3-Isobutyl-2,6-dithioxanthine

3-Isobutyl-2-thioxanthine (0.20 g, 0.89 mmol) and Lawesson's reagent (1.1 g, 2.7 mmol) were suspended in toluene (8 mL). This mixture was heated at 120 °C for 17 h. The reaction mixture was cooled and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. 10% Sodium hydroxide (20 mL) was added and the mixture stirred for 10 minutes. This solution was filtered to remove insoluble solids and the solid washed with 10% sodium hydroxide solution. The basic filtrate was treated with dilute acetic acid until pH 4 was reached. The resulting precipitate was collected by filtration and washed with water. Drying of the substance afforded the title compound (0.16 g, 73%).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 13.9 (s broad, 1H), 13.5 (s broad, 1H), 8.27 (s, 1H), 4.32 (d, 2H, *J*=7.5 Hz), 2.48–2.55 (m, 1H), 0.89 (d, 6H, *J*=6.7 Hz).
^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 173.3, 172.0, 144.9, 144.5, 122.8, 54.9, 26.3, 20.2.
MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 241 (M+1).

Example 8

3-Isobutyl-8-methyl-2-thioxanthine

A mixture of 5,6-diamino-1-isobutyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (Example 6 (c), 0.70 g, 3.26 mmol) and triethylorthoacetate (10 mL) was heated at 130 °C for 2 h and 40 minutes. Then the reaction mixture was cooled on an ice-bath, the solid filtered off and washed with ethanol (4 x 2 mL). The solid was dried in vacuo yielding the title compound (0.71 g, 95%).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 13.45 (s, 1H), 12.33 (s, 1H), 4.28 (d, 2H, J=7.6 Hz), 2.50 (m, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 0.87 (d, 6H, J=6.6 Hz).

^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 173.47, 152.09, 151.18, 150.01, 110.62, 53.96, 26.08, 19.75, 14.41.

MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 239 (M+1).

Example 9

3-Isobutyl-7-methyl-2-thioxanthine

a) N-(6-Amino-1-isobutyl-4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrimidin-5-yl)-formamide

5,6-Diamino-1-isobutyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (Example 6 (c), 0.25 g, 1.2 mmol) was dissolved in formic acid (1.5 mL) and stirred at ambient temperature for 0.5 h. A pink precipitate started to form after a few minutes. Water was added and the resulting mixture stirred for 10 minutes. The pink solid was collected by filtration, washed with water and dried to yield the title compound (0.25 g, 86 %). This material was used without further purification. NMR showed that the product was obtained as a mixture of two tautomers: formamide (major) and imino (minor).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 12.0 (broad s, 1H), 8.73 (s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 6.85 (s, 2 H), 4.94 (broad s, 1H), 3.71 (broad s, 1H), 2.22–2.32 (m, 1H), 0.88 (d, 6H, *J*=6.5 Hz). Additional peaks arising from the imino isomer: 8.12 (d, 1H, *J*=11.5 Hz), 7.77 (d, 1H, *J*=11.5 Hz), 7.13 (s, 2H).

MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 243 (M+1).

b) 6-Amino-1-isobutyl-5-methylamino-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one

N-(6-Amino-1-isobutyl-4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrimidin-5-yl)-formamide (0.25 g, 1.0 mmol) was suspended in dry tetrahydrofuran (5 mL) and borane.dimethylsulphide complex (1M in dichloromethane, 2.5 mL, 2.5 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 2.5 h. To the resulting clear yellow solution was added a few drops of 2M hydrochloric acid to eliminate unreacted borane. Water was added and the resulting aqueous solution was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 15 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with brine and dried over Na_2SO_4. The solvent was evaporated off under reduced pressure yielding the title compound (0.12 g, 54 % yield). This material was used without further purification.

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 11.9 (broad s, 1H), 5.75 (s, 2 H), 4.94 (broad s, 1H), 3.70 (broad s, 1H), 3.43 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.24–2.32 (m, 1H), 0.87 (d, 6H, *J*=6.8 Hz).

MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 229 (M+1).

c) 3-Isobutyl-7-methyl-2-thioxanthine

6-Amino-1-isobutyl-5-methylamino-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (0.11 g, 0.48 mmol) was dissolved in formic acid (1 mL) and heated at 85 °C for 1 h. The excess of formic acid was evaporated off under reduced pressure. 10% Sodium hydroxide solution (2 mL) was added and the solution was heated at 85 °C for 20 minutes. Water was added and the pH was adjusted to 4 with dilute acetic acid, upon which a white solid precipitated. The white solid was collected by filtration, washed with water and dried to yield the title compound (85 mg, 74 %).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 12.4 (s, 1H), 8.10 (s, 1H), 4.28 (d, 2H, *J*=7.5 Hz), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.44–2.50 (m, 1H), 0.88 (d, 6H, *J*=6.7 Hz).

^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 174.3, 153.2, 150.1, 143.7, 111.2, 54.1, 33.6, 26.4, 20.1.

MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 239 (M+1).

Example 10

3-Cyclohexylmethyl-2-thioxanthine

a) 6-Amino-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrimidin-4-one

The title compound was prepared in accordance with the general method of Example 6 (a) using cyclohexylmethylthiourea[4] (3.92 g, 22.7 mmol), yielding the title compound as a white solid (4.87 g, 90%).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 11.75 (s, 1H), 6.93 (s, 2H), 5.1-4.7 (br m, 1H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 3.55 (broad, 1H), 1.93 (br, 1H), 1.75-1.30 (br m, 5H), 1.10 (br, 5H).

b) 6-Amino-1-cyclohexymethyl-5-nitroso-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one

The title compound was prepared in accordance with the general method in Example 6 (b) from 6-amino-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrimidin-4-one (3.75g, 15.7 mmol), yielding 3.60 g (85%) of the product as a purple solid.

^{1}H NMR δ 13.5 (br s, 1H), 12.7 (br s, 1H), 9.1 (br s, 1H), 4.84 (br s, 1H), 3.82 (br s, 1H), 1.80 (br, 1H), 1.64-1.59 (br m, 5H), 1.07 (br, 5H).

c) 5,6-Diamino-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one

The title compound was prepared in accordance with the general method in Example 6 (c) from 6-amino-1-cyclohexylmethyl-5-nitroso-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (3.60 g, 13.4 mmol) and was used without purification in the next step.

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 6.17 (s, 2 H), 5.01 (br, 1H), 4.0-3.0 (very broad, 3H), 1.97 (br, 1H), 1.8-1.3 (br m, 5H), 1.09 (br m, 5H).

d) 3-Cyclohexylmethyl-2-thioxanthine

5,6-Diamino-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one, (1.44 g, 5.67 mmol) together with triethyl orthoformate (15 mL) was heated at 146 °C for 2 h and 10 minutes. The mixture was allowed to cool to ambient temperature and then further cooled on an ice-bath, followed by addition of heptane (5 mL). After filtration of the suspension and washing with heptane (20 mL), the obtained solid was dried in vacuo. Suspending the solid (1.2 g) in a hot mixture of 2-propanol (125 mL), water (5 mL) and tert-butyl methyl ether (25 mL) gave, after cooling and filtration, a white precipitate which was washed with further tert-butyl methyl ether (5 mL). The solid was dried in vacuo to give the title compound (0.95 g, 63%).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 13.69 (s, 1H), 12.35 (s, 1H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 4.33 (d, 2H, *J*=7.1 Hz), 2.18 (m, 1H), 1.49-1.50 (m, 5H), 1.02-1.17 (m, 5H).
^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 173.65, 152.68, 149.90, 141.41, 110.96, 52.97, 35.31, 30.09, 25.88, 25.32.
MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 265 (M+1).

Example 11

3-(3-Methoxypropyl)-2-thioxanthine

a) 6-Amino-1-(3-methoxypropyl)-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrimidin-4-one

Sodium methoxide (0.81 g, 21.2 mmol, 1.05 eq.) was added to a solution of 3-methoxypropylthiourea (3.00 g, 20.2 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL). Ethyl cyanoacetate (2.18 mL, 20.2 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was added and the resulting white slurry was heated to reflux for 2.5 h. The solvent was evaporated and the remaining pale brown oil

was treated with 2M acetic acid (15 mL,). The white crystals were filtered off and washed with acetic acid to give the title compound (2.10 g, 48%).

^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 1.77 (s, 1H), 6.95 (s, 2H), 4.86 (s, 1H), 3.39 (t, 2H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 1.88 (m, 2H).

b) 3-(3-Methoxypropyl)-2-thioxanthine

Acetic acid (25 mL) was added to 6-amino-1-(3-methoxypropyl)-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-pyrimidin-4-one (2.00 g, 9.29 mmol) and the red reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C. Sodium nitrite (0.71 g, 10.2 mmol) in water (7 mL) was added, the oil bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred for 20 minutes. The solvents were co-evaporated with ethanol and the remaining red solid (1.8 g, 79%) was used in the next step without further purification.

Platinum on carbon (0.5g) was added to a solution of the crude 6-amino-1-(3-methoxypropyl)-5-nitroso 2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (1.80 g, 7.38 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (80 mL) and water (20 mL) and the reaction mixture was hydrogenated at atmospheric pressure for 2 h. The catalyst was filtered off and the pale brown filtrate was co-evaporated with ethanol (250 mL). The resulting brown solid, 1.6 g, was used in the next step without further purification.

5,6-Diamino-1-cyclohexylmethyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (1.6 g, 12.2 mmol) was dissolved in ethanol (10 mL) and triethyl orthoformate (10 mL) and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 2.5 h. The solvents were evaporated off and the resulting brown solid was purified by flash chromatography (heptane/ethyl acetate, 4:1-1:1) to give the title compound (110 mg, 9%).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 13.78 (s, 1H), 12.40 (s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 4.52 (t, 2H, *J*=7.1 Hz), 3.41 (t, 2H, *J*=7.1 Hz), 3.21 (s, 3H), 1.98 (m, 2H).

^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 173.27, 152.63, 149.30, 141.50, 110.94, 69.51, 57.82, 45.47, 26.68.

Example 12

3-Cyclopropylmethyl-2-thioxanthine

a) 6-Amino-1-cyclopropylmethyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one

To 1-cyclopropylmethyl-2-thiourea (0.60 g, 4.6 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was added sodium methoxide (0.26 g, 4.8 mmol) and, after 5 minutes, ethyl cyanoacetate (0.50 ml, 4.6 mmol). The resulting mixture was heated to reflux for 2 h and 40 minutes followed by evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure and treatment of the resulting yellow solid with 2M aqueous acetic acid (10 mL) giving a white solid. The solid was collected by filtration and washed with 2M aqueous acetic acid (10 mL), stirred with ethanol (10 mL) followed by evaporation and drying under reduced pressure, giving the title compound (0.51 g, 56%).

MS (ES) $^{m}/_{z}$ 198 (M+1).

b) 3-Cyclopropylmethyl-2-thioxanthine

6-Amino-1-cyclopropylmethyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (0.50 g, 2.5 mmol) was suspended in acetic acid (8 mL) and, after heating at 90 °C for 15 minutes, sodium nitrite (0.19 g, 2.8 mmol) in water (1 mL) was added to the solution. After 15 minutes the heating was removed and the reaction mixture stirred at ambient temperature for 3 h. Ethanol (30 mL) was added and the solvents were removed under reduced pressure. The resulting oil was treated with ethanol (30 mL) and this afforded, upon evaporation and drying, 6-amino-1-cyclopropylmethyl-5-nitroso-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (0.61 g) as a red-brown solid.

The crude product (0.61 g) from the previous reaction was dissolved in water (10 mL) and tetrahydrofuran (30 mL) and platinum on carbon (0.30 g) were added. The mixture was subjected to hydrogenation at atmospheric pressure for 4 h, the catalyst was removed by filtration and the solvents were removed under reduced pressure. Evaporation of added ethanol (50 mL) afforded an orange solid. The residue was dissolved in ethanol (10 mL)

and triethyl orthoformate (5 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was heated at reflux overnight. Evaporation of the solvent and purification using preparative HPLC afforded the desired compound (38 mg, 6.2% yield from 6-amino-1-cyclopropylmethyl-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrimidin-4-one).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 13.78 (s, 1H), 12.43 (s, 1H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 4.37 (d, 2H, *J*=7.1 Hz), 1.50 (m, 1H), 0.52 (m, 2H), 0.45 (m, 2H).
^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 173.52, 152.62, 149.52, 141.48, 111.02, 51.71, 9.27, 3.50.
MS (ES) $^m/_z$ 223 (M+1).

Example 13

3-Isobutyl-3-methyl-2-thioxanthine

a) 1-isobutyl-3-methylthiourea

Methylamine (2M in methanol, 20.0 mL, 40.2 mmol) was added dropwise to isobutylisothiocyanate (2.00 mL, 16.5 mmol) during 15 minutes at room temperature. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 3.5 h and the solvent was evaporated off to give the title compound (2.37 g, 98%) as a colourless oil.

^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6): δ 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 3.15 (broad s, 2H), 2.80 (d, 2H), 1.81 (m, 1H), 0.83 (d, 6H).

b) 6-Amino-1-isobutyl-3-methyl-5-nitroso-2-thioxo-1H-pyrimidin-4-one

A solution of cyanoacetic acid (1.52 g, 17.8 mmol) in acetic anhydride (2.45 mL, 25.9 mmol) was added to 1-isobutyl-3-methylthiourea (2.37 g, 16.2 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to 60 °C for 1.5 h. The solvent was evaporated and the resulting red oil was redissolved in ethanol (5 mL) and 5M sodium hydroxide (1.6 mL, 8.1 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 2 h. The solvent was co-evaporated with ethanol and the resulting pale brown solid was purified by flash chromatography (ethyl

acetate) to yield 6-amino-1-isobutyl-3-methyl-2-thioxo-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (1.0 g, 29%) as a yellow solid.

Sodium nitrite (0.34 g, 4.9 mmol) in water (1.5 mL) was added to a solution of the amine (1.00 g, 4.7 mmol) in ethanol (7.0 mL) at room temperature. 5M Hydrochloric acid (1.0 mL, 4.9 mmol) was added and the resulting dark red reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. Ethanol (20 mL) was added and the red crystals were filtered off and washed with diethyl ether. Drying of the crystals gave the title compound (0.68 g, 60%).

^{1}H-NMR (DMSO-d_6): δ 12.87 (s, 1H), 9.35 (s, 1H), 4.28 (dd, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.34 (m, 1H), 0.90 (d, 6H).

c) 3-Isobutyl-3-methyl-2-thioxanthine

Palladium on carbon (3.70 g) was added to a solution of 6-amino-1-isobutyl-3-methyl-5-nitroso-2-thioxo-1H-pyrimidin-4-one (6.0 g, 24.8 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (1200 mL) and water (300 mL) and the reaction mixture was hydrogenated (2.5 bar) for 21 h. The catalyst was filtered off and the tetrahydrofuran was evaporated off under reduced pressure. The residue was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 200 mL). The organic phase was concentrated and ethanol (100 mL) was added to the residue and evaporated.

The brown diamine intermediate was dissolved in triethyl orthoformate (50 mL) and the reaction mixture was heated to140 °C for 40 minutes. The reaction mixture was concentrated and co-evaporation with ethanol afforded a brown solid. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (heptane/ethyl acetate, 2:1-ethyl acetate) followed by washing of the solid with diethyl ether and hexane to give the title compound (160 mg, 2.7%).

^{1}H NMR (DMSO-d_6): δ 13.86 (s, 1H), 8.21 (s, 1H), 4.34 (d, 2H, J=7.1 Hz), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.40 (m, 1H), 0.86 (d, 6H, J=7.1 Hz).

^{13}C NMR (DMSO-d_6) δ 174.68, 153.33, 148.41, 141.73, 109.92, 52.83, 37.17, 25.77, 19.92.

Screens

Methods for the determination of MPO inhibitory activity are disclosed in co-pending patent application SE 0103766-2. The pharmacological activity of compounds according to the invention was tested in the following screen:

Assay buffer: 20 mM sodium/potassium phosphate buffer pH 6.5 containing 10 mM taurine and 100 mM NaCl.

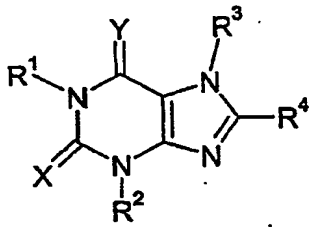
Developing reagent: 2 mM 3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine (TMB), 200 µM KI, 200 mM acetate buffer pH 5.4 with 20 % DMF.

To 10 µl of diluted compounds in assay buffer, 40 µl of human MPO (final concentration 2.5 nM) was added for 10 minutes at room temperature. Then 50 µl of H_2O_2 (final concentration 100 µM), or assay buffer alone as a control, were added for 10 minutes at room temperature. The reaction was stopped by adding 10 µl 0.2 mg/ml of catalase (final concentration 18 µg/ml) for 5 minutes before 100 µl of TMB developing reagent was added (2 mM TMB in 200 mM acetate buffer pH 5.4 containing 20% dimethylformamide (DMF) and 200 µM KI). Plates were mixed and the amount of oxidised 3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine formed was then measured after about 5 minutes using absorbance spectroscopy at about 650 nM. IC_{50} values were then determined using standard procedures.

When tested in the above screen, the compounds of Examples 1 to 13 gave IC_{50} values of less than 60 µM, indicating that they are expected to show useful therapeutic activity.

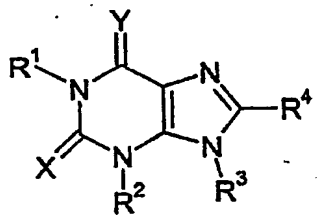
Claims

1. Use of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib)



(Ia)

or



(Ib)

wherein:

At least one of X and Y represents S, and the other represents O or S;

R^1 represents hydrogen or C1 to C6 alkyl;

R^2 represents hydrogen or C1 to C6 alkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C3 to C7 cycloalkyl, C1 to C4 alkoxy, or an aromatic ring selected from phenyl, furyl or thienyl; said aromatic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to C4 alkyl or C1 to C4 alkoxy;

R^3 and R^4 independently represent hydrogen or C1 to C6 alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or conditions in which inhibition of the enzyme myeloperoxidase (MPO) is beneficial.

2. The use according to Claim 1 wherein the disease or condition is a neuroinflammatory disorder.

3. The use according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein X represents S and Y represents O.

4. The use according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein R^3 represents H.

5. The use according to any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein R^2 represents C1 to C6 alkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C3 to C7 cycloalkyl.

6. The use according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 wherein R^4 represents H.

7. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier, for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of neuroinflammatory disorders.

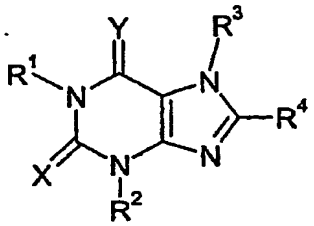
8. A compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) which is:
1,3-diisobutyl-8-methyl-6-thioxanthine;
1,3-dibutyl-8-methyl-6-thioxanthine;
3-isobutyl-1,8-dimethyl-6-thioxanthine;
3-(3-methylbutyl)-6-thioxanthine;
3-isobutyl-8-methyl-6-thioxanthine;
3-isobutyl-2-thioxanthine;
3-isobutyl-2,6-dithioxanthine;
3-isobutyl-8-methyl-2-thioxanthine;
3-isobutyl-7-methyl-2-thioxanthine;
3-cyclohexylmethyl-2-thioxanthine;
3-(3-methoxypropyl)-2-thioxanthine;
3-cyclopropylmethyl-2-thioxanthine;
3-isobutyl-3-methyl-2-thioxanthine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof.

9. The use of a compound according to Claim 8 as a medicament.

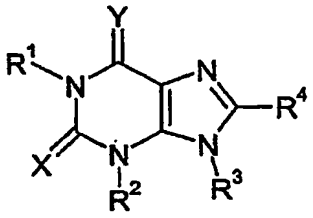
10. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), as defined in Claim 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof, wherein the process comprises:

(a) reaction of a compound of formula (IIa) or (IIb)



(IIa)

or

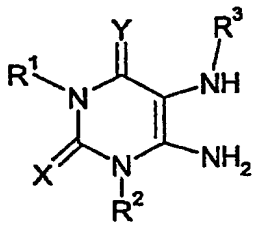


(IIb)

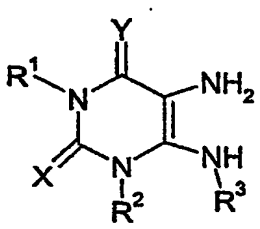
wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as defined in Claim 1; X represents O or S; and Y represents O;

with a sulphurising compound such as Lawesson's reagent or phosphorus pentasulphide; to give a corresponding compound wherein Y represents S; or

(b) reaction of a diamine of formula (IIIa) or (IIIb)



or



(IIIa) (IIIb)

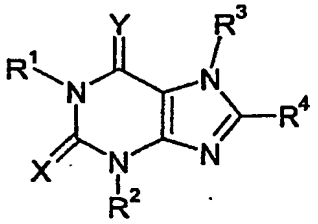
wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, X and Y are as defined in Claim 1;

with formic acid or with a trialkylorthoester;

and where necessary converting the resultant compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib), or another salt thereof, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting the resultant compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) into a further compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib); and where desired converting the resultant compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib) into an optical isomer thereof.

Abstract

There is disclosed the use of a compound of formula (Ia) or (Ib)



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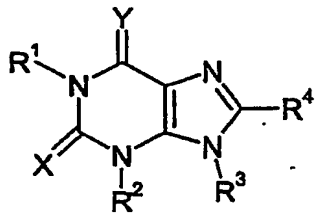

(Ia) (Ib)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, X and Y are as defined in the specification, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, enantiomers or racemates thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or conditions in which inhibition of the enzyme myeloperoxidase (MPO) is beneficial. Certain novel compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and enantiomers and racemates thereof are disclosed, together with processes for their preparation. The compounds of formulae (Ia) and (Ib) are MPO inhibitors and are thereby particularly useful in the treatment or prophylaxis of neuroinflammatory disorders.

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